

lead co-sponsor of H.R. 1429, the Scleroderma Research and Awareness Act.

Research supported by the National Institutes of Health has led to groundbreaking discoveries in possible treatments and has enhanced the medical community's understanding of the progression of this disease. As physicians and medical researchers have yet to find a cure or a disease-specific treatment, physicians are left offering treatments that minimize the impact of the disease's progression and alleviate patient symptoms. This legislation provides for continued federal investment at the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin diseases in basic and clinical research related to scleroderma.

I rise today to encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 1429 and to participate in the many scleroderma awareness activities organized by patient and community groups in their communities. Please join me in supporting the efforts of the 300,000 patients and their families to bring awareness to this disease and hopefully, one day a cure.

IN HONOR OF THE BLUE AND GRAY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of the brave heroes who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. As we approach the 150th anniversary of one of the most crucial battles of the Civil War I have been highlighting the unique personal stories of soldiers from my district of Pennsylvania who served at Gettysburg. Each day leading up to the anniversary we recognize that these citizen soldiers were regular people, just like us, who rose to extraordinary challenges in defense of liberty and freedom for all. Today, in the honor of those brave men, I am proud to submit this tribute poem written Albert Carey Caswell.

BLUE AND GRAY

Blue . . .
Blue and Gray . . .
As a coming storm,
before our Nation so lay!
So surely one of her darkest of all nights!
Darkest of all days!

Blue . . .
Blue and Gray!
When, it was Brother versus Brother . . .
Taking up arms against one another,
marching out into that darkness of,
all of those most dreadful of days!
From the battle of Bull Run,
to "Pickett's Charge" . . .
as so gallantly moving forth,
were but all of America's Sons!
As we so look back,
at all of that heartache begun,
and all of their graves!
So contemplating,
all of their bright futures they gave!
As all of those grieving Mothers,
so cried and so prayed!
So cried and so prayed!
While, all of those tears,
ran down their most quivering face,
as upon them now lay!

Blue . . .
Blue and Gray,
as some of America's darkest of nights . . .
So surely,

some of her darkest of all days!
As the blood flowed and poured . . .
With all of that death and so gore!
That which time can not so erase,
nor so ever ignore!
The ones,
Who So Gave Those Last Full Measures,
one's life is but the greatest of treasures!

Blue . . .
Blue and Gray!
As with all of its scars,
our Nation so lives with this day!
All in its loss!
All in it's cost!
Of such a magnitude so very grave!

Blue . . .
Blue and Gray . . .
As dark evil slavery,
so held our Nation at bay!
And States Rights,
were but the talk of the day!
As it was North vs South!
As a Nation's future,
so hung all in the balance!
Blue!
Blue and Gray!
As this war would so take,
eventually this great President to his grave!
And all of the burdens he bore,
so made him so age!
Each year was ten as you looked at his face!
When Succession and Summer,
exploded all on that day!
With a coming great battle up ahead,
but still on its way!
Which would so determine this war's fate!
For "a house divided can not so stand",
in any way!

Blue!
Blue and Gray!
As the children so cried both night and day!
As now without Fathers,
their futures were paved!
And then three days in July,
all in the midst of such hell,
as they so battled two sides!
As for victory they were all so trying to vie!
As they all so moved forth,
with but tears in their eyes . . .
Knowing full well,
that all in this hell,
that death before them now lie!
And yet still,
with all of their iron wills they so heroically,
marched into the darkness!
as the fields turned to red . . .
All on this day,
and to the South what it all had to say . . .
With bodies strewn into pieces,
which now all so beseech us!
As everywhere the smell of death as so
greet us!

Of which now so lies beneath us!
And all about their faith and courage,
of what it so teaches!
As The South had so lost the future,
and now eventually the war,
as victory they would never so see again so
for sure!

In three days over 51,000 most magnificent
men died,
and over 27,000 were wounded . . .
as our Nation so wept and so cried!
As they gave up their strong arms and once
legs,
and all of those most precious of all eyes,
and their bright futures they gave!
In places like Little and Big Round Top,
as they fell and would not so stop,
in Gulp's Hill where the blood flowed and
poured,
where they all so gave all the more!

From Oak's to McPherson's Ridge,
and from Seminary to Cemetery all of their
gifts,
and heard all of their last final cries . . .
to Devil's Den where face down they so lie!

As one and all so gave up their most precious
lives!

As the Mothers cried!
As the first innocent died,
as her name was Ginnie Wade!
As why,
we should all so hate most evil war on this
day!

But, the ones who so hate war but
the most!

Are all of those magnificent's,
who must take all of those lives while fight-
ing close! 51 And so watch all of their
Brothers die in their arms,

who meant the most!
And leave all their loved ones so far behind,
all in such tears now all as ghosts!
But where would we all be,
if it were but not for the likes of all of these?
From this The Home of The Brave,
and this The Land of The Free . . .
And then into a future,
such a most magnificent moment so came to
be!

As now all so etched in time,
is but a sheer work of art and beauty!
Serving as a blessing to all of Mankind and
history!

As the beginning of a healing that a Nation
would need!

With a President's Gettysburg Address . . .
Which so brought tears to history's eyes all
in its behest!

"To bind up our Nation's wounds",
as Abraham so spoke these words which
would bless! "That this nation, by the
people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth" as was this
test!

So simple!

So sure!

So perfect and pure!

272 words, that which said . . . so . . . so . . .
so much more!

Then, all the volumes of books in a library
so ever stored!

As each word was so built upon the next!
Like a pyramid,
all in its strength as out into a future as
etched!

As was Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, no
less!

A Gift To The Ages that he so left!

Blue . . .

Blue and Gray!

Some of our Nation's darkest of nights,
darkest of days!

And let us not forget,
all of their light that which they so was left!
"That these dead shall not have died in
vain" . . .

By remembering,
all their life's embers,
as we so walk through these hallowed fields
. . .

All in what they so faced!
And what was so said,
all in this most hallowed place where they
bled!

All in their most precious blood,
which so turned all of those fields into red,
from their heroic bodies which raced!
All in what was so heard and so done!
By all of these most selfless of all ones!
All so help a war to be won!
In this town called Gettysburg,
please listen to what was so said all in his-
tory heard!

Close your eyes and now listen!
As you can hear the cannons exploding,
as by you head the bullets are hissing!
As you can feel and hear their last most val-
iant cries,
as your listening!
And feel all of their loved ones tears,
who will forever be missing!

Blue . . .

Blue and Gray!
 As why we have all so enshrined this most hallowed place!
 Where valor and courage were but the words of the day!
 So take the time,
 to homage to so pay,
 to so concert crate what they all gave!
 So that as a Nation we may long well remember,
 all of those most heroic moments in July and November . . .
 and what it all so says about America Face!
 As we now so reflect back in awe,
 and so reflect back in splendor at all of their grace!
 At Their Last Full Measures they were so to render,
 all in this place!
 And take stock in all of their courage and faith!
 All of their strong hearts of steel,
 as to our Nation what was all so revealed!
 So that never may again such heartache we feel,
 and so let such a dark day begin!
 Of Brother versus Brother,
 as so ever happen again!
 As we have so set aside this most sacred land,
 to preserve and protect and never neglect,
 but to so ever honor The Valor of Man!
 And remember that "a house divided can not stand!"

Blue . . .
 Blue and Gray . . .
 as somehow . . .
 from out of all of this darkness we all found our way!

Blue . . .
 Blue and Gray!

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT
 OF FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SERGEANT AT ARMS EARNEST W. SUMNER

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to recognize a close friend of mine and a highly regarded public servant of the Florida House of Representatives, Sergeant at Arms Earnest "Ernie" W. Sumner. Mr. Sumner will retire from his post this summer after a long and accomplished career in the Florida Legislature.

The past and present Florida House of Representatives and entire Florida Legislature has been fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate colleague and friend. In 1971, Ernie began his career with the Florida House of Representatives. As Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives, I was pleased to have had the privilege to appoint Mr. Sumner as Sergeant at Arms of the Florida House of Representatives on July 1, 1998. A committee meeting room, 404 House Office Building, has been named "Sumner Hall" in honor of Mr. Sumner.

The intangible guidance and skillfulness that Mr. Sumner has displayed to the Florida House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the public is to be commended. His leadership has influenced many through his devotion, fortitude, and kindness, and will be set apart in the years to come.

Mr. Sumner has had an outstanding career, and he deserves special recognition for this achievement. I am honored to recognize him for the distinguished service and counsel he has provided the State of Florida, and thank him for his hard work and many contributions. After more than four decades and 138 legislative sessions, his commitment to excellence, leadership and service is to be admired. My sincerest wishes and congratulations to Ernie and his family on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE INTERNATIONAL SWEETHEART OF THE SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY, SYDNEY MADISON BINNINGTON

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sydney Madison Binnington, a true goodwill ambassador who concludes her two-year term as the International Sweetheart of the Sigma Chi Fraternity on June 29th upon the conclusion of the Sigma Chi Fraternity's 79th Grand Chapter here in Washington, DC.

Since 1946, the International Sweetheart of the Sigma Chi Fraternity has been a role model to the Fraternity's undergraduate and alumni members and a liaison to non-members throughout the world. In 2011, Sydney was selected from hundreds of nominees to receive this honor—and since that time, she has dedicated herself to her role as a leader and ambassador of the Fraternity—having traveled thousands of miles from her hometown of Toronto, Ontario to visit more than thirty undergraduate chapters, attend numerous international alumni events, and raise awareness for the Fraternity and its designated charity, the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.

A 2012 graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Sydney was a campus leader during her time there, excelling in academics as a student in the University's Baccalaureate Honors Program and serving her campus community as a member of the Pi Beta Phi Sorority, a bible study leader, a literacy advocate, and a fundraising volunteer for the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

For the past two years, Sydney has dedicated herself to the Fraternity's core values of "Friendship, Justice and Learning" and fulfilled her duties with strong character and personality, poise, and grace.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Sigma Chi Fraternity and fellow Sigma Chi brothers serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sydney Madison Binnington for her tireless and dedicated service to the Sigma Chi Fraternity and wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

THANKING JAMIE FLEET FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding work of Mr. Jamie Fleet as Democratic Staff Director for the Committee on House Administration as he departs the House of Representatives next week for service in the U.S. Senate.

During his tenure at the Committee, Jamie has used his wide-ranging skills to steadfastly guide the operations of the House with an eye on history while embracing the evolving operations of the House required in the 21st century. Jamie helped oversee the expansion of House technology options for personal and committee offices and a needed upgrade to the House's information security infrastructure. Whether the matter involved contested federal elections or contested parking spots, Jamie has worked to solve the multi-faceted issues facing the House with an informed touch. And, he has done so in a way that brought bipartisan applause while never losing sight of his commitment to the values of the Democratic Party. For that, Jamie has earned the respect of Members and staff on both sides of the aisle, as well as the officers of this House, for his fair approach to managing this often partisan institution.

Mr. Speaker, I can say that Jamie has proven to be one of the most competent staffers I have had the privilege of working with during my more than twenty years working and serving in the House of Representatives. On behalf of my colleagues on the Committee on House Administration and in the House of Representatives, I thank Jamie for his dedicated and loyal service to this institution and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DOUG ROGERS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 28, 2013

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Doug Rogers and his 24 impressive years of service as the executive director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators. His many years of service to Texas education and his career leading ATPE are to be commended—it represents the highest level of enthusiasm and dedication to the educators and students of the State of Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Mr. Rogers attended North Texas State University, where he earned multiple education degrees and certificates. Rogers served as a teacher and administrator for nine years in both elementary and secondary schools. He began his service with ATPE in 1981, spent two years with the Texas Association of School Boards, and re-joined the ATPE staff before accepting the position of Executive Director in June of 1989.